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ZOOLOGY.

Fauna of Aldabra.—The following information concerning the natural history of the island of Aldabra has been recently published by Dr. W. L. Abbott. The most remarkable inhabitant of Aldabra is the gigantic land tortoise, similar to those of the Galapagos group. They were formerly very abundant, but being easily caught and in great demand for their flesh, their numbers have been greatly diminished by the whalers and fisherman. Their greatest enemy is the common rat, which swarms upon Aldabra and eats the young as soon as they are hatched.

The only other land reptiles upon Aldabra are a small lizard (*Ablepharus poecilopleurus*) and two geckos (*Hemidactylus mabronia* and *Phelsuma abbottii*).

Turtles are plentiful. Many thousands annually ascend the sandy beaches to deposit their eggs. Tortoise-shell was formerly gathered in large quantities, but this fishery has been overworked and large "carré" are now scarce.

Mammals are represented by a large fruit bat (*Pteropus aldabrensis* True) and two smaller bats. Rats (*Mus decumanus*) probably from wrecked vessels, swarm everywhere, and are very destructive. Cats, probably from the same source, are common upon Grande Terre, where they have completely exterminated the flightless rail.

Land birds are represented by fourteen resident and six accidental visiting species.

The most interesting of birds is the curious flightless rail (*Rougetius aldabranus* Ridgway), the sole survivor of the numerous flightless birds that inhabit the Mascarine Islands at the time of their discovery. The present species is in great danger of being exterminated by the cat, which sooner or later will overrun the smaller islands, as it has done Grande Terre. The other land birds are apparently identified with those of Madagascar.

Insects are not numerous either in species or individuals. Six or seven butterflies, a few moths, a dragon fly, a few beetles, some flies and bees are found. Mosquitoes abound. (Proceeds. U. S. Natl. Mus. XVI, 1894.)

A List of the Birds of the Vicinity of West Chester, Chester Co., Pennsylvania.—(Continued from page 628.)—

72. *Ammodramus savanarum passerinus* (Wils.), Grasshopper Spar-

row. Rather infrequent summer resident, during some years not seen at all.

73. *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (Forst.), White-crowned Sparrow. Very infrequent, if not rare, migrant in the spring and fall. I shot a bird of the year on Oct. 18, 1890, and another Oct. 6, 1888; and during one spring I saw an adult male.

74. *Z. albicollis* (Gmel.), White-throated Sparrow. Abundant migrant in the spring and fall, but it does not appear to remain through the winter. (Dates of spring occurrences: April 25, 1886; April 28 to May 10, 1887; May 9-19, 1888; March 29, 1889; April 12, 1890; April 18, 1891. Latest fall occurrences: Nov. 6, 1886; Oct. 27, 1887; Dec. 31, 1888; Nov. 1, 1890).

75. *Spizella monticola* (Gmel.), Tree Sparrow. Abundant winter resident. (Earliest arrival noted: Oct. 12, 1889; latest spring date: April 2, 1895).

76. *S. socialis* (Wils.), Chipping Sparrow. Abundant summer resident. (Earliest spring arrivals. Apr. 8, 1887; April 1, 1888; April 14, 1889. Bulk arrived: April 11, 1887).

77. *S. pusilla* (Wils.), Field Sparrow. Summer resident, perhaps not quite as abundant as the preceding. (Bulk arrived: March 10, 1888; April 19, 1890).

78. *Junco hyemalis* (Linn.), Slate-colored Junco. Abundant winter resident. (Earliest fall occurrence: Oct. 1, 1886. Latest spring occurrences: April 6, 1895; June 7, 1890).

79. *Melospiza fasciata* (Gmel.), Song Sparrow. Resident, but in cold winters many migrate, at least from the higher, more exposed portions of the country. This is apparently our most abundant native bird.

80. *M. georgiana* (Lath.), Swamp Sparrow. Common migrant in the spring and fall. (Spring occurrence: March 23, 1886; April 21, 1888; April 13 to May 9, 1891; May 9, 1897. Dates of fall occurrences; Oct. 6, 1888; Oct. 5-18, 1890).

81. *Passerella iliaca* (Merr.), Fox Sparrow. Common migrant in the spring and fall. (Spring occurrences: March 17, 1885; March 16, 1886; Feb. 22 to March 21, 1888; March 15-28, 1889; March 2-9, 1890; March 10 to April 13, 1891; March 10, 1895. Have found it in the fall from the 1st to the 15th of November).

82. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (Linn.), Towhee. Common summer resident. (Earliest spring arrivals: April 1, 1886; April 27, 1887; April 20, 1889; April 18, 1891. Bulk arrived: May 1, 1887; May 6, 1888).

83. *Cardinalis cardinalis* (Linn.), Cardinal Grosbeak. Rather infrequent; I have observed it only in the spring and fall. It is quite

probable that it breeds in this vicinity, but I have never seen it in summer.

84. *Zamelodia ludoviciana* (Linn.), Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Infrequent migrant. I received, from a friend, two specimens in the flesh, Oct. 1, 1887, and I shot another May 5, 1888.

85. *Passerina cyanea* (Linn.), Indigo Bunting. Common summer resident. (Earliest spring occurrences noted: May 4, 1887; May 8, 1891; May 16, 1897).

86. *Piranga erythromelas* (Vieill.) Scarlet Tanager. Infrequent summer resident, in thick woods. (Earliest spring date, May 6, 1887).

87. *Progne subis* (Linn.), Purple Martin. Tolerably common summer resident. (Arrives in the spring about the first half of April).

87. *Petrochelidon lunifrons* (Say), Cliff Swallow. Infrequent summer resident, more abundant during the migrations.

89. *Chelidon erythrogaster* (Bodd.), Barn Swallow. Abundant summer resident. (Earliest spring arrivals: April 21, 1886; April 12, 1887; April 7, 1888; April 21, 1889; April 17, 1891. Bulk arrived: April 28, 1886; May 2, 1887. All depart in the fall at or before the first week in October).

90. *Tachycineta bicolor* (Vieill.), Tree Swallow. I shot two specimens and saw two others on April 25, 1891, by the Brandywine, and saw another three days later in West Goshen. It is strange that it should be so infrequent here, while it is so abundant during the migrations in other portions of eastern Pennsylvania.

91. *Clivicola riparia* (Linn.), Bank Swallow. Infrequent migrant.

92. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (Aud.), Rough-winged Swallow. Common summer resident along the Brandywine.

93. *Ampelis cedrorum* (Vieill.), Cedar Waxwing. Common migrant in the spring and fall; a few breed here. I have seen it only once in the winter, Jan. 13, 1886. (Earliest spring arrivals: March 14, 1889; March 1, 1890).

94. *Lanius borealis* (Vieill.), Northern Shrike. A rather infrequent and irregular winter visitant, from November until the middle of March, but in 1890 I saw one as late as April 6th.

95. *L. ludovicianus* (Linn.), Loggerhead Shrike. I shot two adult males, March 28, 1895, in West Goshen (these are now in the collection of the Acad. Nat. Sci. Philada). This is the only published occurrence of this species in Chester Co., and the second, of late years, for eastern Pennsylvania.

96. *Vireo olivaceus* (Linn.), Red-eyed Vireo. Abundant summer resident, more numerous than any other species of the family. (Earliest

spring arrivals: May 9, 1887; May 10, 1888; May 4, 1891. Bulk arrived: May 13, 1887; May 12, 1888).

97. *V. gilvus* (Vieill.), Warbling Vireo. Common summer resident.

98. *V. solitarius* (Wils.), Blue-headed Vireo. Tolerably common migrant in the spring and fall. (Dates of spring occurrences: April 28, 1888; April 20, 1889; May 10, 1890; April 22, 1891. Fall occurrence: Sept. 23, 1890).

99. *V. noveboracensis* (Gmel.), White-eyed Vireo. Rather infrequent summer resident.

100. *Mniotilta varia* (Linn.), Black-and-White Warbler. Abundant migrant in the spring and fall. I have never found it in the summer, though several nests have been taken in this county. (Spring occurrences: May 7, 1887; May 3-17, 1890; April 25, 1891; May 2, 1897. Fall occurrences: Aug. 24 to Sept. 9, 1887; Aug. 21-28, 1888; Sept. 28, 1889; Sept. 6 to Nov. 29, 1890).

101. *Helmitherus vermivorus* (Gmel.), Worm-eating Warbler. Infrequent summer resident; it is no more abundant during the migrations. (Arrives about the second week in May).

102. *Helminthophila pinus* (Linn.), Blue-winged Warbler. I have seen this species only once, when I secured a specimen in West Goshen, May 17, 1890. It must be considered rare in this immediate neighborhood. Subsequently (May 9, 1897) I saw another.

103. *H. chrysoptera* (Linn.), Golden-winged Warbler. One male, May 5, 1897).

104. *H. ruficapilla* (Wils.), Nashville Warbler. A not infrequent migrant in May and September.

105. *Composthlypis americana* (Dinn.), Parula Warbler. Abundant migrant. (Spring occurrences: May 6-10, 1888, May 3, 1890; May 4, 1891. Fall occurrences: Sept. 18-20, 1889; Sept. 23, 1890).

(To be continued.)

ENTOMOLOGY.¹

Protective Value of Motion.—Mr. F. M. Webster in an address delivered before the Ohio Academy of Science and afterwards published in the Journal of the New York Entomological Society² makes some interesting remarks on the protective value of action, volitional or other-

¹ Edited by Clarence M. Weed, New Hampshire College, Durham, N. H.

² Journal of New York Ent. Soc., V. 67-77.